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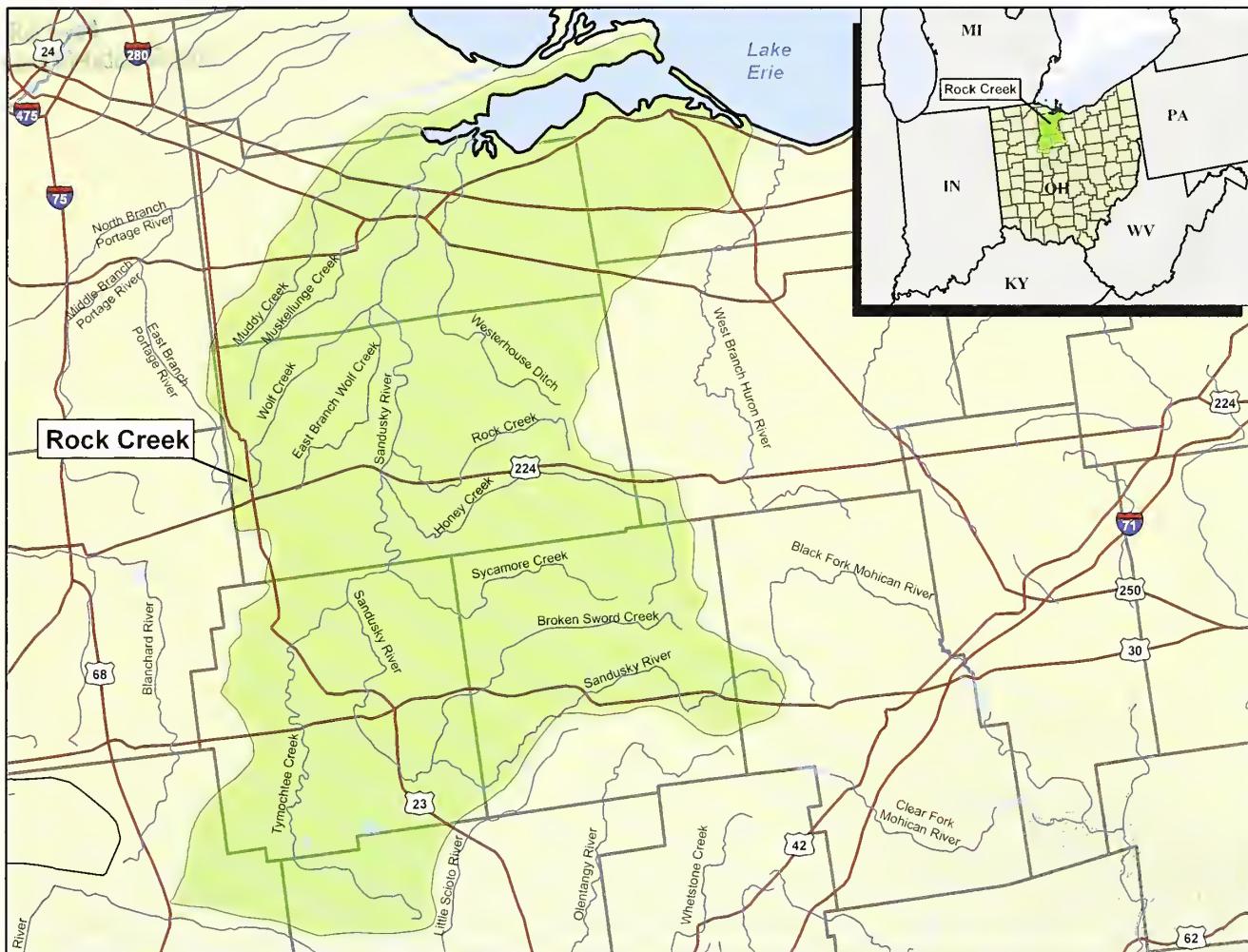
United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)

Watershed Fact Sheet

Rock Creek Watershed, Ohio: 2004-2007

A CSREES* Competitive Grant Watershed, one of 24 CEAP watershed projects.



CEAP Assessment

Evaluate agricultural land use and water quality trends; model alternative management scenarios to optimize water quality.

Issues: Sediment and nutrient losses from an agricultural watershed, suburban development, fish and aquatic habitat, wildlife habitat.

Watershed Description

- 22,000 acres
- 82% cropland, 16% forest
- Listed by Ohio EPA as impaired for aquatic life.

* Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service



Buffer of native grasses.



Conservation tillage leaves at least 30 percent of the soil covered after planting with last year's crop residue. Residue adequately controls erosion by both wind and water on this soil type.



Leaving a few rows of unharvested corn or other grain near good wildlife cover adds to habitat for a number of species of wildlife.

Approach

Water Sampling: Flow, sediment, phosphorus, nitrogen, ammonia, silica, sulfate, chloride, fluoride, pesticides, and metals

Watershed Models: AnnAGNPS (Annualized Agricultural Nonpoint Source)

Assess Practices: Placement and timing of conservation practices, optimal mix of practices, lag times in water quality responses.

Communicating Results

Project reports, professional meetings, one or more peer-reviewed papers in professional journals.

Collaborators

- Heidelberg College
- University of Toledo
- Ohio State University
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Local farmers, ranchers, and stakeholders

Contacts

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